MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

FAX COVER-SHEET

A Registered Limited Liability Partnership

345 Park Avenue

New York, NY 10154-0053 Telephone: (212) 758-4800 Facsimile: (212) 751-6849

To	COMPANY	Fax	PHONE
7 . 7	II C. D Pr. Tandomorle		

Examiner Dorothy WU, Group: 2697

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(703) 872-9314

(703) 305-8413

FROM:

Matthew K. Blackburn

DATE:

March 24, 2003

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4

COMMENTS:

U.S. SERIAL NO. 09/265,070; FILING DATE: MARCH 9, 1999

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<u>PATENT</u> Docket No. <u>1232-4519</u>

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):

YAMAGISHI et al.

Group Art Unit:

2697

Serial No.:

09/265,070

Examiner:

Dorothy WU

Filed:

March 9, 1999

For:

IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD AND APPARATUS, CONTROL METHOD

THEREFOR, AND STORAGE MEDIUM

Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Sir:

I hereby certify that the attached <u>Amendment in Response to Restriction Requirement</u> are being transmitted on the date shown below to the Examiner <u>Dorothy Wu</u> of Group No. <u>2697</u> at the following facsimile number: (703) 872-9314.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: March 24, 2003

By:

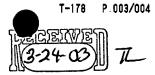
Matthew K. Blackburn Registration No. 47,428

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P. 345 Park Avenue New York, NY 10154-0053

(212) 758-4800 Telephone

(212) 751-6849 Facsimile





3.25.03

Serial No.

: 09/265,070

Applicant(s)

: YAMAGISHI et al.

Filed

: March 9, 1999

Title

: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD AND APPARATUS, CONTROL METHOD

THEREFOR, AND STORAGE MEDIUM

Art Unit

: 2697

Examiner

: Dorothy WU

Docket No.

: 1232-4519

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Honorable Commissioner Of Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

The Office Action dated February 26, 2003 constituted a requirement for restriction, which divided this application into 3 species. These species were (1) claims 1-16 directed to an image processing method and apparatus for displaying sensed images on an electronic view finder; (2) claims 17-59 directed to an apparatus and method for changing the optical system condition of an image sensing lens to focus the lens and for associating and synthesizing the plurality of images to obtain a panoramic image; and (3) claims 60-68 directed to an image processing apparatus comprising a detachable lens and control means to permit detachment of the detachable lens.

As between these three species, Applicant provisionally elects Species 2 (Claims 17-59). Should the Restriction be made final, Applicant expressly reserves the right to represent the non-elected species (Claims 1-16 and 60-68) in divisional applications, if necessary.

Appl. No. 09/265,070
Paper dated March 24, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated February 26, 2003

Applicants respectfully request an early and favorable examination on the merits.

In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THIS AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 AND 1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 13-4500, ORDER NO. 1232-4519.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated March 24, 2003

By

Matthew K. Blackburn Registration No. 47,428

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P. 345 Park Avenue New York, NY 10154-0053 (212) 758-4800 Telephone (212) 751-6849 Facsimile